GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6572
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2005
FIRES IN NATIONAL PARKS
Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a major fire took place in the Gir National Park recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any animal has been affected as a result of the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action proposed to be taken to prevent such fires in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. The State has reported that an accidental fire broke out on March 13, 2005 in the Gir National Park and Sanctuary in Gujarat. An area of 84.8 hectares was affected by fire.

(c) & (d) No damage to animals has been reported.

(e) & (f) Yes Sir. The forest Department has conducted an inquiry and the First Offence Report has been made.

(g) The following steps have been taken to make good the loss and protect and preserve it against further damage:-

(i) Fire lines are prepared along the forest roads and across the forests.

(ii) Fire fighter teams are deployed at sensitive points.

(iii) Forest watchers are deployed in the hills for early detection of forest fire.

(iv) Fire towers are erected to detect the forest fires.

(v) The forest area is well linked with the modern wireless network.

(vi) The field officers and employees are provided with vehicles to acess the forest fire sites.

(vii) Programs of environment education and awareness are carried out through nature education camps and meeting with villagers.

(viii) Forest personnel are trained for fire prevention and combating forest fires.

(ix) Intensive patrolling by staff.

(x) Regulation of traffic by staff.